

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the claims, please cancel claims 6 and 15 and amend claims 5, 7, 8, 12-14 and 16-17 as follows.

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A process for delivering a ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:

a) forming a ~~membrane active~~ styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymer;

b) covalently linking hydrophobic groups to anhydride monomers in the copolymer thereby forming a membrane active polymer capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5; and,

[[b]] c) contacting said cell with said ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide and ~~the styrene-maleic anhydride-based random copolymer~~ said membrane active polymer such that the compound and the polymer are endocytosed by the cell.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The ~~polymer process~~ of claim [[6]] 1 wherein the hydrophobic groups are selected from the list consisting of: hydrophobic esters and hydrophobic amides.

8. (currently amended) The ~~polymer process~~ of claim 7 wherein a functional group is covalently linked to an anhydride monomer in the polymer.

9-11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) A process for delivering a ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide to the cytoplasm of a cell comprising:

a) forming a ~~membrane active~~ vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymer;

b) covalently linking hydrophobic groups to anhydride monomers in the copolymer thereby forming a membrane active polymer capable of lysing mammalian cell membranes at pH 6.5; and,

[[b]] c) contacting said cell with said ~~biologically active compound~~ polynucleotide and ~~the vinyl ether-maleic anhydride-based alternating copolymer~~ said membrane active polymer such that the compound and the polymer are endocytosed by the cell.

13. (currently amended) The polymer process of claim 12 wherein the vinyl ether is selected from the group comprising alkyl vinyl ether and aryl vinyl ether.
14. (currently amended) The polymer process of claim 13 wherein the alkyl vinyl ether is selected from the group consisting of: propyl vinyl ether and butyl vinyl ether.
15. (canceled)
16. (currently amended) The polymer process of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 12 wherein the hydrophobic groups are selected from the group consisting of: hydrophobic esters and hydrophobic amides.
17. (currently amended) The polymer process of claim 12 wherein a functional group is covalently linked to an anhydride monomer in the polymer.
- 18-20. (canceled)

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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